

REMARKS

By way of this preliminary amendment, the abstract has been amended to remove the reference numerals which are not required under US practice to ensure they are not misused by an infringer in an improper attempt to misconstrue the claims.

Applicant respectfully notes that the claims as originally filed in the parent PCT application (and as re-presented here in the substitute specification herewith in a substitute specification for the convenience of the examiner), have been held patentable by the USPTO in the international proceedings. Accordingly, this case must be taken up out of order for examination and allowance.

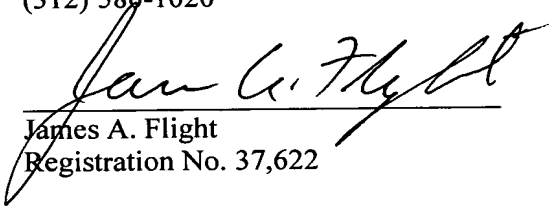
It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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